



AWARENESS OF POPULATION EDUCATION ON ADULT WOMEN LEARNER IN VALLEY DISTRICTS OF MANIPUR

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ABSTRACT

One of the important problems faced by the country is rapid population growth. In this process, the Government has taken various programs to control and to reduce the pace of the population growth. One of the important programs undertaken by the country in this regard is '*Adult Education Program*'. The main aims of adult education is promoting increase awareness of the certain population like explosion of population, its causes and effect, family planning program, awareness of marriage, health and hygiene, sanitation, savings, aids and use of drug etc. **Objectives of the study:** The present study is to create awareness among the adult women learners regarding population related issues and to know the practices about the impacts of population and health related issues. **Method of the Study:** In order to make an in-depth study of the present work, the investigator had adopted survey and analytical method. The data was collected with the help of the tool developed by the investigator. **Results:** One of the major reasons for failure of the family planning program was lack of knowledge and awareness about various methods of family planning among its target groups. **Conclusion:** Education is the key to reduce the pace of the population growth. Hence, it is necessary to improve the educational standards of the people through formal, non-formal and adult literacy programs.

KEY WORDS: Awareness, Population, Environment, Adult Education, Adult Learner.

INTRODUCTION:

India, with an outstanding economic growth record among the developing countries and the second largest population in the world, today stands on the threshold of an industrial and technological revolution which could put her in the front rank among nations over the next 2-3 decades, if she could successfully conquer the emerging challenges. The most daunting challenge is that of **POPULATION**. In India, a nationwide family planning program was initiated after independence. Our nation was the first country in the world to launch a national program emphasizing family planning to the extent necessary for reducing birth rates in 1952.

In this process, the Government has taken various programs to control and to reduce the pace of the population growth. One of the important programs undertaken by the country in this regard is '*Adult Education Program*'. A need for population and environment related issues for out of school youth and adult illiterates was felt by the National Conference on Population Education, which was held on October, 1971 in New Delhi, because it was realised that education in the present days is not simple concerned with earning a livelihood or becoming a good citizen but also to make people concerned with quality of life at the individual and societal levels.

It is expected that a decline in population growth rate will be faster when efforts on education front are interalia made to inculcate awareness among out of school youth and illiterate adults about population situation, problem of population growth, its effect on their individuals life and the country as a whole. The National Steering Committee on Population Education at its meeting held on 14th May, 1984, recommended that suitable provision should be made for population education program in higher education, school education, both formal and non-formal education and adult education. The main aims of adult education is promoting increase awareness of the certain population related issues like explosion of population, its causes and effect, family planning program, awareness of marriage, health and hygiene, sanitation, savings, aids and use of drug etc.

Need for population related issues to adult women learners:

One of the prominent problems of our country is rapid population growth. The explosion of population has lead to poverty, pollution, scarcity of food grains and land and strain on natural resources, leading to the deterioration of the quality of life. Hence, there is need to maintain the quality of life of the population and to protect the natural resources. In this process, the Government has taken various programs to control the population and to reduce the pace of the population growth. One of the important programs undertaken by the country in this regard is Adult Education Program. The adult education relates learning to living, to the environment-the work, the family, the community. It enables the participants to do more effectively things which they have to do normally in their day to day life task relating to their occupation, home and family life, civic and social responsibilities.

Through the program of adult education, the adults made literate will achieve self-reliance in literacy and numeracy, become aware of the causes of their deprivation and move towards amelioration of their conditions through organization and participation in the process of development, their economic status and general, well-being, imbibe the value of national integration, conservation of the environment, observance of small family norms and ensure equality of opportunity

to women, SC and ST in the rural areas. Hence, educating the adults in the age group of 15 to 35 years and above was needed in now a day for declination of population growth for our nation. So, all the implementing agencies, political parties, mass media, educational institutions and all sections of the community must involve in the drive towards the eradication of illiteracy and challenges of population growth in our nation.

Objectives of the study:

1. To create awareness among the adult women learners regarding population related issues.
2. To know the practices about the impacts of population and health related issues.

Sample:

Samples comprised of 800 adult women learners having age between 15 to 35 years and above were selected randomly from four valley district i.e Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur and Thoubal Districts of Manipur.

Scope and delimitation of the study:

The scope of the present study is confined to assess the awareness of the adult learners regarding population related issues in the four Valley Districts of Manipur. The present study will cover the practices of the adult learners in day-to-day regarding population related issues. Being a diagnostic study, it is expected that the outcomes of this study will enable the policy makers and all concerned implementing agencies to take note of the existing constraints.

Method of present Study:

In order to make an in-depth study of the present study, the investigator had adopted survey and analytical method. The data was collected with the help of the tool developed by the investigator. As the adult learners were not able to read the interview schedule, the investigator read the question to each of the adults and noted their Yes/No responses personally for thorough and comprehensive study.

Analysis and Interpretation of data:

The data was tabulated and analyzed by applying simple statistical techniques i.e. percentage. On the basis of percentage, conclusions were drawn with regard to the attitude of the adult women learners towards population related issues.

Effect of Population increases in general:

The present study depicts that all the 800 respondents agreed that with the rise of population, people have started facing the problems of food, shelter and clothing and there is lot of poverty and unemployment. Similarly, all the respondents responded that with the increase in population, socio-economic development of the village is always less and future generation will have less land. They also responded that excessive population leads to tension in the lives of people and society.

Awareness of Family Planning:

Results indicated that 83% respondents were in favour of family planning and they tried their best to control the family size while 17% respondents were not

favour of family planning. When asked about the size of the family, 86% adults were in favour of that is within the reach of the individual while 14% adults were of the view that although they tried their best to control the family, yet they were not success.

From the analysis, it was also observed that 29% adults admitted that they use contraceptive as device for controlling the size of the family.

Benefits of Small Family:

The study shows that 83% respondents were on the opinion that family planning is a good device to save the mother and infant to suffer and die from death related to pregnancy. They also responded that there were many benefits in small family e.g. money, child care, noise, maintenance etc while 17% were not preferred the family planning.

Child mortality:

The decline in child mortality depends on improvements in the nutritional status of mother, the quality of care during delivery as well as care given to the child. On the basis of the analysis, it was observed that 26% of the respondents responded that the mortality among female child is greater than male child while 74% responded that there was no comment on this view.

Awareness of marriage age:

The analysis reflects that 800 adults responded that the familiarity with the proper marriage of boys and girls. All the respondents also responded that lower age of marriage support the teenage pregnancy that adversely affects the health of women and they also responded that many problems faced for late marriage.

Gender bias:

Male child is always preferred to female in our society. Out of 800 respondents, 67% respondents preferred on gender bias while 33% responded that there was no gender bias although they want at least one male child in the family.

The present study also reveals that 92% adult were of the view that girls should also be given proper care, food, dress etc. They also responded that they have to go outside the house for earning money, some works, girl child helped them in doing household duties for them while 8% adult respondents were not preferred the girl child.

Effect on Natural Resources:

Study reveals that all the 800 respondents responded that they were favour that the rise of population has always effect on natural resources e.g. untimely floods, drought, climate change etc. The study depicts that population related issues should become a subject in the academic field. Need to improve the literacy rate among the minorities, rural, remote, hill areas, reproductive health education for adults and effects of overpopulation on quality of life will be demonstrated practically.

Population related Traditional Beliefs:

The present study shows that aspiring for more children by the lower middle class and poor is mostly due to the recognition of the children as assets of the family. 27% respondents belief that they will take care of them at their old age. Further child mortality has also encourages the people to have more children. 73% respondents were not favour the traditional beliefs.

Responsible Parenthood:

On the basis of the analysis, it was observed that 91% respondents were aware about the child care practices while 9% respondents were not aware about the child care practices. When asked about the sending of their children to school, 95% adults were particular in sending their child to schools while 5% respondents could not send due to lack of financial resources. Those adults used to their child for some manual labour for earning money.

CONCLUSION:

From the above findings, it may be concluded that education is the key to reduce the pace of the population growth. Hence, it is necessary to improve the educational standards of the people through formal, non-formal and adult literacy programs. The population dynamics should form the part of the curriculum at various levels of education.

It may also be concluded that the information relating to the population issues should be disseminated among the people by using various means such as oral propagation, through religious leaders and mass-media agencies like radio, charts, posters, cinema, TV among the low educated and newspaper, journal, magazine among the educated people.

Further, it may also be concluded that the adult learners were understand about the important problems faced by our society is rapid population growth but the major reasons for failure to control the program was lack of knowledge and awareness about various methods of family planning among its target groups.

SUGGESTION:

1. The primers, animators guides will be taken up first for integrating the population contents. New supplementary materials and teaching aids are also to

be prepared highlighting the related issues.

2. The field level adult education functionaries who have to implement the adult education program are to be oriented to develop the right type or attitudes towards population including the need for small family norm for every individual household.

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